

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 176662

NODIS
FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 22189 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, GENEVA 13 JUL 78

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 22189

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

GENEVA FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, FR, US

SUBJECT: GOF PROTESTS ANDY YOUNG INTERVIEW IN LE
MATIN

1. I WAS CALLED TO THE QUAI THIS MORNING AT THE
SPECIFIC REQUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD
TO RECEIVE A PROTEST CONCERNING ANDY YOUNG'S INTERVIEW
IN THE LE MATIN. I WAS ASKED THAT PROTEST BE CONVEYED
DIRECTLY TO THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT.

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2. FRENCH IN PROTESTING SPEAK ONLY OF THOSE PORTIONS
OF THE LE MATIN INTERVIEW WHICH REFER TO FRANCE. THESE
STATEMENTS, I WAS TOLD, WILL NOT BE HELPFUL WITHIN
FRANCE, BUT THE PRIMARY AND DEEP FRENCH CONCERN IS WITH
THE ANTI-FRENCH BIAS THESE STATEMENTS WILL CREATE OR
REINFORCE IN AFRICA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER THEREFORE
ASKS THAT THERE BE A PUBLIC US DISAVOWAL OF THESE

STATEMENTS.

3. THE GOF IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT:

(A) REFERENCES TO FRENCH RELATIONS IN AFRICA AS
"NEO-COLONIALISTS";

(B) THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE: BEGIN QUOTE:

QUESTION: LET'S TURN TO AFRICA. IT IS OFTEN SAID IN
WASHINGTON THAT THE FRENCH AND THE AMERICAN POLICIES ARE
TOTALLY COMPLEMENTARY ON THAT CONTINENT. DO YOU AGREE?

ANSWER: THIS DEPENDS ON WHAT IS SPOKEN OF. IF THE
QUESTION IS TO ASSURE THE TRANSPORTATION OF TROOPS FOR A
HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE, AS TO KOLWEZI, THIS IS TRUE. FOR
THE REST, I DON'T KNOW VERY WELL WHAT THE FRENCH DO.

QUESTION: BUT WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOUR GOALS ARE THE SAME
AS THOSE OF THE FRENCH IN AFRICA?

ANSWER: NO, NOT AT ALL.

QUESTION: COULD YOU EXPAND ON THIS POINT?

ANSWER: NO, I CANNOT.

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QUESTION: WHY?

ANSWER: BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH PRIMARILY
DEFEND THEIR OWN ECONOMIC INTERESTS. IN THE DIFFERENCE
THAT PITTED THEM AGAINST THE BELGIANS IN CONNECTION WITH
SHABA OPERATIONS FOR EXAMPLE, I WOULD SAY THAT WE WERE
CLOSER TO THE BELGIANS, BECAUSE THEY WERE PROMPTED BY
HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS. THEY WANTED TO PROTECT
THEIR NATIONALS AND ALSO TO PRESERVE THE MINING INDUSTRY
OF THE COUNTRY.

QUESTION: AND THE FRENCH?

ANSWER: I DO NOT EXACTLY KNOW. I BELIEVE THAT THE
FRENCH ARE WORRIED BY THEIR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT.
THEY HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN COMPETING WITH THE GERMANS,
THE JAPANESE, THE SWEDES. THEY HAVE ALWAYS OVERCOME
THIS BY DEVELOPING VERY FRUITFUL NEO-COLONIAL RELATION-
SHIPS. INCIDENTALLY, I HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SOME
OF THE COUNTRIES THAT FAIR THE BEST IN AFRICA ARE IN THE
FRENCH-SPEAKING ZONE. THE CONVENTIONAL EXAMPLE IS THAT

OF THE IVORY COAST. AND I LIKE THE IVORY COAST. WHEN I SEE A PRESIDENT SUCH AS HOUPHOUET BOIGNY DECIDING, IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CASE, THAT THE FUTURE OF HIS PEOPLE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY ARE BEST SERVED BY A CLOSE COOPERATION WITH FRANCE, I DO ALL I

CAN TO SUPPORT HIM.

QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PLAN TO CREATE AN ALL-AFRICAN FORCE?

ANSWER: I THINK THAT IT WILL NEVER BE BORN. THIS IS WHY I NEVER WAS REALLY UPSET. IT HAS BEEN MUCH SPOKEN OF, BUT SEE WHAT HAS BEEN PRODUCED: THREE HUNDRED
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SENEGALESE, THREE HUNDRED GABONESE AND PERHAPS A THOUSAND MOROCCANS. NO, THIS PLAN GIVES RISE TO TOO MUCH OPPOSITION IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES. BECAUSE IT IS NOT SEEN THERE AS AN ALL-AFRICAN FORCE BUT AS A FRENCH-AFRICAN FORCE. THIS WILL CERTAINLY BE A MAIN DISCUSSION TOPIC AT THE OAU CONFERENCE. THIS SAID, I THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE A WAY BY WHICH THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES COULD MUTUALLY HELP EACH OTHER. AND I THINK THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD PROBABLY BE THE BEST WAY TO ORGANIZE IT BECAUSE IT COULD FREEZE THE MILITARY SITUATION. THE OAU WANTS TO SETTLE THESE PROBLEMS ALONE BUT IT DOES NOT HAVE THE MATERIAL MEANS FOR THAT AND, AFTER ALL, AFRICA IS NOT FAR AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE UN TROOPS, I THINK, HAVE PROVEN THAT THEY COULD CONTAIN VIOLENCE AND OPEN THE WAY FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICTS. THIS IS WHAT BOTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST NEED. END QUOTE.

(C) IMPLIED RELATING OF FRENCH AND SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFRICA AS REFLECTED IN FOLLOWING: BEGIN QUOTE:

THE SOVIETS CAN DO WHAT THEY WANT AND THE FRENCH ALSO. BUT WITH US THE WORLD IS MORE SEVERE. END QUOTE.

4. I PROMISED TO GET BACK TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY AND I THINK IT IMPORTANT TO DO SO IN ORDER THAT THIS PROBLEM BE DEFUSED BEFORE THE PRESIDENT MEETS GISCARD IN BONN. HARTMAN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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